

**Minutes of Meeting  
July 14, 2021  
In-person and Zoom**

Members Present in Pierre:

Whitney Bruner  
Mary Kay Budmayr  
Bernie Grimme  
Reed Haug  
Marcie Lorensberg

Tim Neyhart  
Jaze Sollars (DDD)  
Sara Valle

Members Present via Zoom:

Barb Abeln  
Robert “Skippy” Blechinger  
Melanie Boetel  
Kathie Erdman Becker  
Toni Feist  
Chuck Henrie

Val Husby  
Tania Kostal  
Eric Kurtz  
Derek Smith  
Joey Younie

Others Attending:

Arlene Poncelet

Marlys Feist

INTRODUCTIONS

Marcie Lorensberg, Chair, called the meeting to order. The meeting agreements were reviewed.

APPROVE AGENDA

Derek Smith made a motion, seconded by Chuck Henrie, to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

## APPROVE MINUTES

Derek Smith made a motion, seconded by Chuck Henrie to approve the minutes of the meeting held April 23, 2021. Motion passed.

## REVIEW AND APPROVE THE ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Arlene Poncelet shared the report from the Executive Committee meeting and reviewed the actions taken at the meeting.

Chuck Henrie made a motion, seconded by Reed Haug, to approve the report of the Executive Committee meeting held June 23, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

The following actions were taken by the Executive Committee:

1. Approved \$1,000 of federal funds to SD Parent Connection for printing of a new Behavior Guide.
2. Unsolicited request from DRSD for Support for SDAC and the Council – approved submission of application for July meeting.

Derek Smith made a motion to ratify the actions of the Executive Committee, seconded by Mary Kay Budmayr. Motion passed unanimously.

## BUDGET UPDATE

Arlene reviewed the Information Budget that she prepares using the Department of Human Services monthly grant sheets. This shows \$36,078.81 of available funds from FFY19, FFY20 and FFY21 grant awards. Arlene shared that a few projects would not be spending all their obligated funds, so this number was most likely slightly higher.

Arlene also reviewed the Forecast Summary sheets for FFY19, 20 and 21 that assists the Council to see that grant funds are obligated and expended within the first two years of an award.

We have done very well in getting to the point where we will be obligating and spending funds within the two-year time frame.

Chuck Henrie made a motion, seconded by Derek Smith, to accept the budget report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Arlene reviewed those members who have finished serving terms on the Council or have chosen not to remain for another term. The Council thanked these members for their time on the Council – Chuck Henrie, Reed Haug, Connie Schmitz, Jennifer Olson and Kathie Erdman-Becker.

Arlene shared information on the ACL/Office on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Technical Assistance Institute being held virtually in July. The Annual Conference for NACDD will also be held virtually in August. The Administration on Disabilities has created a new Employment Technical Assistance Center and a National Center on Dual Diagnosis. Arlene will share websites for both.

The Council will be receiving some additional grant funds by the end of September for FFY21 from the re-allotment of Puerto Rico's grant. Last time it was approximately \$12,000. The new electronic data submission system is not yet ready for DD Councils to use so no revised deadline yet for the submission of the state plan which is usually due August 15.

### GRANT APPLICATION – SD Conference on Developmental Disabilities – Division of Developmental Disabilities

Eric Kurtz, Center for Disabilities, presented the proposal from the Division of DD on behalf of the planning committee. Planning for an in-person event in late September. Focus areas are crisis services, co-occurring IDD and Mental Health, technology, networking and partnerships and the LifeCourse Framework. Council discussion covered support for the focus

areas and awards and a concern about people with disabilities being able to afford transportation, lodging and personal assistance. Arlene shared that travel assistance is available through the Council and this information has been shared each time information on the conference is sent out.

Reed Haug made a motion, seconded by Derek Smith, to approve \$20,524 of federal funds for the SD Conference on Developmental Disabilities. Motion passed 12-0 with Jaze Sollars, Toni Feist, Chuck Henrie, Eric Kurtz and Tim Neyhart abstaining.

GRANT APPLICATION – Self-Advocacy Coordinator – SDCDD Outreach, SDAC Support and Transition to New Partners Coordinator – Disability Rights South Dakota

Tim Neyhart and Sandy Hook from Disability Rights SD presented the proposal to the Council. Council discussion included positive remarks about supporting SDAC and mentoring the new Partners Coordinator; it has an aggressive hire date; and are there enough federal funds and match for this grant. The Council thanked Sandy for everything she has done for Partners.

Kathie Erdman Becker made a motion, seconded by Sara Valle, to approve \$89,792.49 of federal funds for the Self-Advocacy Coordinator grant. Motion passed 16-1 with Tim Neyhart abstaining.

STATE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Council again reviewed the draft goals and objectives and Arlene shared public comments received as a result of the survey shared broadly through the Council's, the Center for Disabilities and Disability Rights SD lists and social media.

**GOAL 1 - Community Supports & Services** – People with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families have improved access to services and awareness of resources.

**Objective 1** – Each year of the state plan, the Council will share resources and information through multiple media formats weekly and specifically target 6-8 new groups or locations (such as clinics, schools, etc.).

**Objective 2** – Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate with other agencies and organizations to support at least one professional development opportunity for community-based providers, family members and guardians, and people with I/DD.

**Objective 3** – Each year of the state plan, the Council will support improved policies and practices at a minimum of 3 agencies providing services to transition age youth.

- 30 of the 33 respondents really liked this goal and objectives.
- Workgroups and conferences – more availability for parents and self-advocates; continue with virtual training (!!); offer local level trainings;
- New groups – nursing students, caregivers, siblings
- Transition – need to understand the issues and solutions; (!!)
- Training for first responders is needed (!!!!)
- Most focus on training, information and knowledge for professionals
- What can be done to improve relationships between people with disabilities and ordinary people in the community; natural supports such as faith communities

**GOAL 2 – Mental Health** – People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have improved access to individually designed mental health services in their own communities.

**Objective 1** – In FFY2022 and in FFY2026, the Council will collaborate with the Division of Behavioral Health, community mental health centers, community support providers and relevant licensing boards to complete an assessment of the capacity of the current system to support people with I/DD and mental health concerns in their communities.

**Objective 2** – Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate with others to provide at least two education and awareness activities related to mental health services for people with IDD.

**Objective 3** – Each year of the state plan, the Council will support 2 events and/or resources that provide education for family caregivers and direct support providers who assist people with I/DD who need mental health services to remain in their communities.

- 27 of the 33 respondents really liked this goal and objectives and 5 others thought they were OK.
- Community issues – stigma, lack of funds, openness by families, lack of understanding by schools, professionals
- Coordinate with SD NAMI
- Celebrate success and well being
- Support systems should be cross trained in both DD and mental health
- Schools need to change the definition of benefiting from education to include social and emotional interaction as a measure for impact of the disability in school.
- Engage school mental health teams in trainings
- Activities would fit in rural and city areas as well as reservations.

**GOAL 3 – Advocacy & Leadership** – People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have information, training, support and opportunities to effectively advocate and impact systems change.

**Objective 1** – Each year of the state plan, in collaboration with the DD Network, advocacy and leadership training will continue for people with IDD and their families.

**Objective 2** – Each year of the state plan, the Council will support a statewide self-advocacy organization to provide 2 training events for self-advocates to increase self-advocacy and leadership skills that allow people with I/DD to participate as members of boards and councils at all levels.

- 24 of the 33 respondents really liked this goal and objectives and 9 others thought they were OK.
- Create small groups of people to train and always ask participants for feedback
- Focus on the interaction of advocacy tools to include the development of skills among the white and non-white cultures to allow for both groups to effectively work together to address advocacy supports.
- Continue the focus on underserved and minority populations

- Record Zoom classes so more people can benefit
- Continue collaboration with Special Olympics advocacy activities

Other issues to be addressed:

- Adults with IDD who are just getting by and lost in the cracks – some don't seek help, some don't know there is help and others don't care.
- More avenues for in-home care for working caregivers.
- Increased inclusion of underserved and minority populations
- Vaccine hesitancy
- Reaching a larger community.
- Raise the \$2000 asset limit for people on SSI
- Focus more directly on relationships and friendships using natural supports with ordinary people in the community.
- Communicating with families the services and supports that CSPs offer – many families think that services have not changed since the 70s.
- Transportation
- Improving the pay scale for workers giving care to DD persons. Work with legislators and Governor.

The State Plan budget for Year 1 and 2 was discussed.

Goal 1 - \$200,000 of federal funds

Goal 2 - \$77,500 of federal funds

Goal 3 - \$200,000 of federal funds

General management - \$50,000 of federal funds

Functions of the DSA - \$0

Total - \$527,570 (same as FFY21 grant award)

Derek Smith made a motion, seconded by Marcie Lorensberg, to approve the state plan goals, objectives, activities and budget as presented today. Motion passed unanimously.

### Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

Partners in Policymaking Year 30 & Recruitment for Year 31,  
Disability Rights South Dakota

Reed Haug made a motion, seconded by Derek Smith, to issue the Partners RFP. Motion passed 13-0 with Tim Neyhart and Derek Smith abstaining.

Public Information, USD Center for Disabilities

Marcie Lorensberg made a motion, seconded by Derek Smith, to issue the Public Information RFP for \$18,000. Motion passed 14-0 with Eric Kurtz abstaining.

Youth Leadership Forum 2022, BHSSC Transition Services Liaison Project

Mary Kay Budmayr made a motion, seconded by Bob Blechinger, to issue the YLF 2022 RFP for \$27,500. Motion passed 14-0 with Eric Kurtz abstaining.

Advocacy and Leadership for Native Americans with Disabilities and Their Families, Year 2, USD Center for Disabilities Oyate Circle

Derek Smith made a motion, seconded by Barb Abeln, to issue the Advocacy and Leadership for Native Americans RFP for \$40,000. Motion passed 13-0 with Eric Kurtz and Whitney Bruner abstaining.

Community Based Transition Partnership, Year 2, USD Center for Disabilities

Derek Smith made a motion, seconded by Bob Blechinger, to issue the Transition Partnership RFP for \$100,000. Motion passed 11-0 with Whitney Bruner, Tania Kostal, Eric Kurtz and Tim Neyhart abstaining.

Mini-Grants for Education and Training

Derek Smith made a motion, seconded by Bob Blechinger, to issue the Mini-Grants RFP. Motion passed 13-0 with Eric Kurtz abstaining.

Possible new RFP was discussed for an Assessment of Mental Health Services. Melanie shared that the Division of Behavioral



Health just completed an assessment in 2020. She will share with the Council who can review those results and determine the action needed moving forward. It was suggested that Arlene reach out to the new programs in Sioux Falls (The Link) and Rapid City to encourage them to work with people with IDD. Another suggestion was to consider assessments done by other groups such as the START Center or ideas from the National Center on Dual Diagnosis.

Another possible RFP was discussed related to the creation of website for the Council that could be a hub for disability information statewide. Jaze Sollars shared that the Governor is working on a new portal for state services so we might want to learn more about that plan. Arlene shared that she has been working with someone at Teachwell Solutions (the group that provides personnel services for the Council) as they are also looking to revamp their current website. The Council did not feel an RFP was necessary. Tim Neyhart made a motion, seconded by Sara Valle, to approve approximately \$20,000 for the creation of a website for the Council. Motion passed 11-0 with Barb Abeln abstaining.

### Public Comment

Derek Smith shared that he and his mother were interviewed for the latest IMPACT magazine (Arlene emailed the PDF and link).

Tania Kostal shared her son's story of participating at the Dakota Wesleyan University program for adults with IDD. She feels that more real life stories of transitions and the options that are available need to be shared with families, people with disabilities, vocational rehabilitation counselors, CSP staff and educators.

### Adjourn

Mary Kay Budmayr made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. Motion passed.